

Even after leaving the Office of Highway Safety, Frank continued to be an active and benevolent member of the Delaware community. He taught as an Adjunct Professor at Goldey-Beacom College in Wilmington, teaching courses in business and political science until his retirement in 2000. He has also served on numerous boards including the Delaware Blood Bank and the Delmarva Chapter of the American Red Cross. I congratulate and thank him for his valuable contributions and exemplary record of service on behalf of the State of Delaware. Thank you, for all you have done and continue to do for the people of our State.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN ADMINISTRATION PARDONS ACT OF 2006"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today, along with several of my colleagues, I am introducing legislation that would require the president to notify Congress upon the pardon of any Executive Branch employee. This notification is necessary because it is possible that the president could pardon an employee of his administration as a means of preventing an investigation from running its course and, perhaps, uncovering information critical of the administration. Without limiting the president's pardon authority under Article II of the Constitution, it is important for purposes of public accountability that Congress and the American public be notified when he does pardon one of his own employees.

The need for this legislation came to light as a result of the Justice Department's investigation into an administration official's leak of CIA officer Valerie Plame Wilson's identity. The indictment of I. Lewis Libby, who was the Vice President's Chief of Staff, for false statements, perjury, and obstruction of justice in connection with the investigation raised concerns that the President might use his authority to pardon Mr. Libby or other officials involved in serious criminal offenses. This is a concern because President George W. Bush refused to respond to a July 25, 2005 letter I sent seeking his assurance that he would not pardon any former or current officials involved in the leak of Valerie Plame Wilson's name. Also, a June 18, 2006 article by Tom Brune of Newsday notes that the Bush White House may gain political advantage by pardoning Mr. Libby.

This is why Congress and the American people should be informed if and when a president pardons an administration employee. The notice should include information that sets forth the complete picture surrounding the pardon. This would include: the name and government title of the person, nature of the offense, the date of the pardon, the effect of the pardon on any criminal sentence or fine that may have been imposed, whether the person was involved in any criminal or civil investigation, whether the president sought the opinion of the lead Federal investigator on whether a pardon should be granted, and the position of the lead Federal investigator on whether a pardon should be granted.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 24, 2006, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 394: "yes" (S. 1496); Rollcall No. 395: "yes" (S. 203); and Rollcall No. 396: "yes" (H.R. 5534).

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOB FISHER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Bob Fisher, who will begin his 13th year as President and CEO of the Nevada Broadcasters Association in August of this year.

Bob has been the driving force behind recording oral history video interviews with Nevada's pioneer radio and television broadcasters to be preserved for future generations. For the past 12 years, Bob has hosted a weekly public affairs radio program called "Observations" that airs on 17 stations. In addition, he has hosted a weekly public affairs television program, also named "Observations", that airs on four Northern Nevada stations. "Observations" is Nevada's most listened-to public affairs radio program.

Over the course of his long and distinguished career as a broadcaster, Bob has earned a number of accolades. He has earned three American Advertising Federation ADDY Awards for his broadcasting work, as well as Electronic Media Awards in 2000, 2001, and 2002.

Bob's service to the community extends beyond radio and television broadcasts. Currently, Bob serves as the State Coordinator and Chairman of the Nevada AMBER Alert Review Committee. He is a member of the Nevada Homeland Security Commission and serves as Rural Taskforce Chairman. He is also a member of the Nevada BRAC Commission, and a former President of the National Alliance of State Broadcasters Associations (NASBA). Furthermore, Bob is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor my friend Bob Fisher. Bob has been a tireless advocate for the broadcasters in the State of Nevada and has built a very respectable relationship between the broadcasters and our State and Federal Governments. I wish him the best as he continues his leadership of the Nevada Broadcasters Association.

CONCERNS WITH VIOLATIONS OF NORMAL COMMERCIAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS BY GAZPROM AND RUSSIA

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit to the RECORD an article titled "Texas Energy Concern, Assailing Big Russian and German Providers, Talks of Lawsuits" from the May 19 edition of the New York Times. The article, by Paul Meller, describes a situation impacting an important business in the 12th district of Texas.

Since 1997, Moncrief Oil International, Inc. of Ft. Worth, Texas, has held a significant contractual interest in the development of the Siberian Yuzhno-Russkoye gas field owned by Gazprom, Russia's state-owned gas monopoly. Despite Moncrief Oil's well-documented claim, Gazprom is now in the process of transferring mineral assets to European firms that infringe upon the U.S. company's commercial rights and interests.

I am concerned about this apparent violation. It is my hope that Gazprom and Russia will honor and enforce all contractual obligations relating to its strategic minerals industries.

[From the New York Times, May 19, 2006]

TEXAS ENERGY CONCERN, ASSAILING BIG RUSSIAN AND GERMAN PROVIDERS, TALKS OF LAWSUIT

(By Paul Meller)

BRUSSELS, May 18.—An American-based energy company, Moncrief Oil International, is threatening to sue two German companies, contending that an agreement they signed with the Russian giant Gazprom interfered with Moncrief's existing contracts to develop natural gas fields in western Siberia.

Moncrief—a privately owned, family-founded business in Fort Worth—has sent letters to the German companies, E.On and Wintershall, a gas-distribution unit of the German chemical group BASF, informing them of its plans to take legal action in the German courts, Moncrief's president, Jeffrey Miller, said Thursday in a telephone interview.

The threat of the suit in a German court is the latest twist in Moncrief's efforts to get Gazprom to comply with an agreement in 1997 that gave it a 40 percent stake in the Yuzhno-Russkoye field.

Moncrief contends that Gazprom has ignored the agreement and is selling stakes in the natural gas field to other companies, including the 40 percent stake Moncrief says it owns.

In a statement issued after the letter to Wintershall was sent, the company's chairman, Richard W. Moncrief, said, "While Moncrief has delivered on its side of the deal, Gazprom has not honored its signed agreement with Moncrief, instead choosing to sell a stake in the field to BASF, and perhaps E.On."

Late last month, Gazprom signed an agreement that gave Wintershall a 35 percent stake in the Yuzhno-Russkoye field in return for an increased stake in Wings, a joint venture involving Gazprom and BASF.

Gazprom currently owns 35 percent of the joint venture. But under the agreement signed last month in the Siberian city of Tomsk and witnessed by President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia and Chancellor Angela

Merkel of Germany, Gazprom's stake in Wingas will rise to just under 50 percent.

Gazprom is also poised to sign a similar development deal with E.On.

"Their discussions are advancing," Mr. Moncrief said. "The letter to E.On is preemptive and assumes that it will strike a similar deal with Gazprom to the one signed last month.

"Both BASF and E.On were informed by Moncrief of its prior interest in the Y.-R. field in 2005 when the first reports of a deal with Gazprom were emerging, and again in March this year—we still received no response. Certainly no one has ever denied the existence of our prior interest."

A Wintershall spokesman, Stefan Leunig, refused to "comment on the validity of Moncrief's claim."

Mr. Leunig said he did not expect the threat of legal action from Moncrief to affect the deal it signed with Gazprom last month, adding that his company's lawyers "do not recognize any legal foundation for a lawsuit by Moncrief against BASF-Wintershall in a court in Germany."

E.On could not be reached for comment.

Mr. Miller said he was confident that his company had grounds to sue. "Wintershall and E.On both know that their interest in the Y.-R. field interferes with Moncrief's contracts," he said, adding, "We value our 40 percent stake in Yuzhno-Russkoye at around \$8 billion."

Moncrief agreed to invest \$800 million to \$1 billion in the gas field, which it estimates contains 600 billion cubic meters of natural gas deposits. Mr. Miller said it had spent \$10 million to \$15 million on engineering and financing connected with the gas field.

Moncrief tried to sue Gazprom in Federal District Court in Fort Worth, but the court ruled that the case fell outside its jurisdiction. Moncrief is appealing that decision. In the meantime, rather than pursue Gazprom on its home territory, Mr. Miller said his company stood a better chance of fair treatment in Germany. "We don't think we'll get a fair trial in Russia," he said.

Michael Emerson, a specialist in European energy matters with the Center for European Policy Studies in Brussels, an independent research group, said Gazprom had reasons for extending its distribution reach further into Europe.

In addition to selling in lucrative European markets, the company is trying to thwart efforts to establish a new pipeline bringing gas from Turkmenistan to Europe through Turkey. Pressure to create such a pipeline mounted after gas supplies from Russia were cut to countries including Ukraine this past winter.

"Gazprom doesn't want this alternative supply route," Mr. Emerson said. "By consolidating its stake in E.On and BASF, Gazprom will gain a voice in all the strategic investment issues, and will be better placed to persuade European companies not to invest in a competing route."

TRIBUTE TO LANIE BLACK

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lanie Black for his years of public service to citizens of Southeast Missouri. Rep. Black has represented the 161st district in the Missouri House of Representatives since 1998, and he will retire at the end of the 2d Session of the 93rd General Assembly.

While in the Missouri House of Representatives, Lanie Black has been an active member of the Economic Development Committee and chaired the Transportation Committee. He has been a tireless advocate for his constituents, ensuring that their views are represented in the Missouri General Assembly.

Lanie has been a life-long resident of Charleston, Missouri. He is a 1965 graduate of Charleston High School. He then went on to Vanderbilt University to earn a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. After graduating from Vanderbilt, Rep. Black served as a diver for the U.S. Navy.

In addition to serving in the Missouri House of Representatives, Lanie Black has been an active member of his community. Rep. Black operates a poultry farm near Charleston, Missouri. He is a member of the local Kiwanis Club and the Missouri Farm Bureau. Lanie has continued to help the Boy Scouts of America as a scoutmaster. In 1993, Lanie Black was honored as the Charleston Man of the Year for his outstanding community involvement.

There are few individuals in public service who are as dedicated to our communities and country as Lanie Black. He has always put the views and interests of his constituents before his own political interest. Rep. Black was able to use his great knowledge of agriculture and rural affairs to better represent the needs and concerns of the citizens of Southeast Missouri. His strong faith and firm values guided him to public service, and he will exit that stage with dignity and class.

Mr. Speaker, I once again ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Rep. Lanie Black. Missouri is a better place because of his leadership, and we wish Rep. Black the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO PETER MYERS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Peter Myers, Missouri State Representative for the 160th legislative district. Rep. Myers is retiring from the Missouri General Assembly after eight years of distinguished service.

Rep. Myers was born on January 4, 1931 in Racine, Wisconsin. Upon graduation from William Horlick High School in Racine, Wisconsin, he earned a Bachelor's degree in agriculture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1953. Rep. Myers proudly served his country from 1953–1955 as a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Ordinance Corp. Rep. Myers then moved to Southeast Missouri in 1955, to own and operate a farm on the outskirts of Sikeston, MO. From 1955–1982, Rep. Myers worked the land and spent countless days in the fields cultivating crops. During this time, Rep. Myers gained a reputation as being an extremely knowledgeable and skilled farmer.

In the early eighties, Rep. Myers ventured into public service by accepting positions with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Although Rep. Myers had been involved in many civic organizations and recognized as a leader in Missouri Agriculture, he was able to bring his expertise to a national level. He served in sev-

eral capacities throughout USDA, and eventually rose to the level of Deputy Secretary of Agriculture during the Reagan Administration. After Rep. Myers' service to USDA, he remained a strong voice for the American farmer.

In 1998, Rep. Myers decided to further serve Missourians in the General Assembly. He won a seat in the Missouri House of Representatives, representing the 160th District. Rep. Myers eventually rose to become the Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture. Missourians have been fortunate to have such a devoted and well-versed member of the General Assembly. In addition to Rep. Myers' legislative duties, he advises Adopt a Farm Family of America, Inc., which is a Christian organization that provides support to rural citizens. Rep. Myers has committed his life to bettering the lives not just of farmers or his constituents, but of all Missourians.

As Rep. Myers completes his final term in the Missouri General Assembly, he can rest assured his actions in Jefferson City are well-respected by all Missouri farmers. His wife Mary and five children deserve to be commended as well, for they have supported Rep. Myers through the years. I once again congratulate Rep. Myers on his devoted service to the citizens of Missouri's 160th District. While Rep. Myers' time in office is winding down, I am certain he will remain a prominent figure in Missouri public life.

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4157) to amend the Social Security Act to encourage the dissemination, security, confidentiality and usefulness of health information technology:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express some concerns with the bill before us, but also to urge my colleagues to find ways to encourage the careful development of meaningful health information technology systems. It is critical that we move rapidly toward the development and implementation of an electronic health information system, but it also is critical that this be done with great forethought and integrity.

I regret that I cannot support the bill before us today because it fails to include critical components mandating quality in our health care technology systems. Furthermore, I echo the concerns of my colleagues regarding the need for patient privacy standards and important consumer protections.

This is a missed opportunity for our nation's health care system. The goal of moving health care from pen and paper to the digital age has enjoyed bipartisan support. I am troubled that the bill presented to the House of Representatives today fails to meet the standards of the bipartisan coalition spearheaded by my colleague, PATRICK KENNEDY.

In recent years, I have been proud to see the health care community in Rhode Island come together to accelerate the use of health